

**MIAMI-DADE COMMISSION ON ETHICS AND PUBLIC TRUST
MEETING SUMMARY
DECEMBER 10, 2003
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Opinions

03-156: The Commission on Ethics found that Stephen Nuell, the spouse of a member of the Public Health Trust who owns a controlling financial interest in a nursing recruitment and placement firm, is not prohibited from supplying nurses to nursing staffing agencies that do business directly with the Trust. However, the Trust member is prohibited from voting on matters involving nursing staffing issues because the decisions will affect her in a way distinct from the general public.

03-173: The Commission on Ethics found there is no conflict of interest for County Firefighter Houston, who is assigned to the Airport and owns a contracting company, to bid on various County construction projects, including projects through the Aviation Department.

03-176: The Commission on Ethics found that County Correction employee Rozier, who owns a cleaning service company, may contract with all other County departments but the Corrections Department.

03-177: The Commission on Ethics found that County Corrections employee Anderson, whose spouse owns a professional cleaning business and wishes to transact business with the County, may contract with all other County departments with the exception of the Corrections Department.

03-180: The Commission on Ethics ratified the staff opinion that a bid protest hearing that was scheduled based upon a letter sent to Nextran Corporation (the bidder) indicating that Nextran would not be awarded the County contract did not violate the County Cone of Silence Ordinance, as bid protest hearing is a duly-noticed public hearing and is an exception under the Cone of Silence.

03-184: The Commission on Ethics found that County Public Works project engineer Rivera, who was a former partner in a firm known as CRJ, would not create a bar for CRJ to obtain re-certification with DBD and transact business with the County. Because Mr. Rivera continues to maintain a controlling financial interest in CRJ, the firm is prohibited from transacting business with the Public Works Department.

03-185: The Commission on Ethics ratified the staff opinion that an individual serving on the Cutler Ridge Steering Committee and the County's Boundaries Commission is not required to recuse himself from participating in and voting on matters presented to the Boundaries Commission that involve the incorporation of Cutler Ridge.

Complaints

03-31/32: The Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint for lack of probable cause against Lila Kaufman, candidate for the Sunny Isles Beach City, finding that group photographs of her and other prominent local officers that are used in her flyer do not amount a violation of the Statement of Voluntary Fair Campaign Practices contained within the Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance.

03-33: The Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint for lack of probable cause against the Mayor and City Council of Homestead based on allegations that Complainant's public records request was never honored by the City. The Commission found the City did, in fact, comply with the Complainant's request.

03-34: The Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint for lack of legal sufficiency against Simon Cruz, a candidate for Miami Beach City Commission, because the allegations, even if proven to be true, do not violate any ordinances under the Ethics Commission's jurisdiction.

03-36: The Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint for lack of legal sufficiency against Deborah Irby, candidate for the Opa-Locka City Commission, because the candidate allegedly violated state election laws.

03-37: The Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint for lack of probable cause against various Virginia Gardens City officials because there was no proof that these officials exploited their respective positions by participating in a conspiracy against the Complainant.